Subject: U.S. Colonial table of coinage rates

Nimeskern, May

[West Quincy, MA]

1930

Mrs May Nimeskern
23 Willard Street.
West Quincy, East Milton P O. Mass.

Feb. 3

Dr. Thomas Mabbott,

Dear Sir:

Find your name in an old issue of "Scott's Hobbies" and wonder if you would be interested in what I have.

There's a box with scales & weights for weighing coins and an old paper. A Table of the Weight & Value of Coins as they pass in the respective States of the Union with their "Sterling and Federal Value". The scales are mentioned by Gov. Winthrop P. 18 Watson's History Amer. Coinage and the table must be dated around 1782. 39 There are 13 States on it and 5 denominations

Eagle, dollars, dimes, cents & mills
The Spanish dollar seems to be
the unit of value.

I'd love to keep these but as I
have growing children, can no
longer do so. Any money I realize
is needed.

If you are not interested may
I ask, will you please hand
clipping along

Very truly yours,
Mrs. May Zimmerman

N.B. This seems rather in the Society's line so I pass it along. The article referred to related to early newspapers — T. O. Mabbott.
I give no guess at value in my reply — leave it to you

Ocean Press

30, 1930

Quincy Woman Owns Antique Coinage Table

Mrs. May Nimeskern of 23 Willard St., West Quincy, is of the belief that she possesses the only table of coinage rates ever prepared by the United States, which at the time of its drawing up comprised but the 13 original colonies. The probable date of origin of this article is 1782. It was discovered in a section of Watson's "History of American Coinage" and Fisk's "Critical Period of American History." p. 165

Mrs. Nimeskern, who is a collector of old coins and antiques, chanced upon the table, during a purchase of a quaint old coin box, which contained an odd collection of United States and English coins.

The box, which measures 7 x 3 inches, contained a rare assortment of these coins and a Colonial-type jeweler's scales, the strings of which are now held by a thread because of their centuries of age. On the bottom of the supposedly valuable box was spread a small plush mat, underneath which was found, the table.

A review of the history books reveals that "On the 7th of January, 1782, the Congress of the Confederation instructed Robert Morris, who was Superintendent of Finance, an office corresponding to our Secretary of the Treasury, to prepare and report to Congress a table of rates at which the different species of foreign coins most likely to circulate within the United States should be received at the Treasury, 1 (ref) Journal of Congress, vol, p 8."

Instead of complying with the instructions Morris addressed a communication to the president of Congress in which he discussed the inequality in the idea.

Several history books on coinage have printed a portion of the table, but it is believed that none contains the definite information inscribed on the table owned by Mrs. Nimeskern.

The back of the table computes interest at 6 per cent. up to $1000, which is automatically worked down to mills. Mrs. Nimeskern has had the table framed and it will go on display shortly in the Granite Trust Co. window.

Mrs. Nimeskern has also in her col- one-cent pieces dated from

Febr. 6,1930

Mrs. May Nimeskern
23 Willard Street
Quincy, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Your letter to Dr. Mabbott has been forwarded to us. We should be interested to see your scales for weighing money with a view to purchasing them, if we find that we do not already have the kind that yours are. We have a number of these early American scales, also a number of the various tables for converting United States and Spanish money. If you would care to send them on approval, we could then make some definite statement as to whether we should like to buy them or not.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

23 Willard St.
E. Milton P.O. Mass.
Feb. 8.

Howland Wood,
Dear Sir:

As the strings on one side of scales are almost broken I don't think I'll bother sending them — Thank you.

Here is a partial copy of table. It is complete with table at 60/0 on back

Yours truly,
Mrs. Inez Dimeicken

A Table of the Weight and Value of Coins as they pass in the respective States of the Union with their Sterling and Federal Value

Names of Coins	Standard weight pr Sterling			13 States					Federal Value pr Coin				
	dwt	gr	l.s.d.										
English Guinea													
French "													
Johannes													
Half "													
Doublon													
Spanish Pistole													
French "													
" Crown													
Spanish Dollar	17	6	0 46	0	60	080	076	048	0	1	0	0	0
English Shilling									0	0	2	2	2
Pistareen									0	0	2	0	0

Allowed Gold & Silver coins of equal fineness are valued by weight

Gold 11 — 1

Silver 1485 — 179

WEST QUINCY, MASS.

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23 Willard Street.
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